



3rd Steering Committee of the Working for Health Programme

Friday, 26 April 2019, 16:00-17:00

Teleconference, hosted by ILO

Meeting Minutes

Participants

ILO

1. Alette van Leur, Director, Sectoral Policies Department (Chair)
2. Christiane Wiskow, Health Sector Specialist, Sectoral Policies Department
3. Maren Hopfe, Junior Professional Officer, Sectoral Policies Department
4. Alexandra Trant, Junior Technical Officer, Sectoral Policies Department

OECD

1. Stefano Scarpetta, Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
2. Nick Tomlinson, Global Health Advisor, Health Division

WHO

1. Peter Salama, Executive Director, UHC and Life Course Division
2. Jim Campbell, Director, Health Workforce Department
3. Paul Marsden, Technical Officer, Health Workforce Department
4. Tana Wuliji, Technical Officer, Health Workforce Department
5. Kenza Zerrou, Consultant, Health Workforce Department

UN MPTF Office

1. Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, MPTF Office
2. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office

NORAD

1. Ingvar Olsen, Policy Director, NORAD
2. Priya Lerberg, Senior Advisor, NORAD

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Alette van Leur (ILO).

Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the 3rd Steering Committee meeting and extended a special welcome to Mr. Peter Salama who was appointed Executive Director of UHC and Life Course at WHO and in this new function attended for the first time a Working for Health Steering Committee meeting. It was noted that the third Steering Committee meeting had been organized in addition to the face-to-face meeting with the main purpose to review and to take decisions on a number of project proposals (concept notes) in order to facilitate a smooth transition into the implementation phase of the programme.
2. The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 1: Information on the MPTF Funding Framework

3. The MPTF Office expressed their thanks and appreciation to NORAD for their support to the Working for Health initiative and particularly for depositing the 2019 funds. The MPTF office confirmed that the first two deposits from NORAD have been received.
4. The MPTF Office briefly introduced the Working for Health MPTF Funding Framework document that had been circulated shortly before the meeting and that reflected the latest funding streams. The document represented a standard MPTF document that would be updated and circulated before every Steering Committee.
 - Table 1 covered the income of funds (sources of funds) as well as any transfers and expenditures (use of funds). So far, 2.337492 million dollars have been received and only the agency fee of 1% has been deducted.
 - Table 2 provides a wider picture of the financial commitments to date, which are part of formal commitment agreements but have not been deposited yet.

Decision points:

- a. There was agreement based on a comment from NORAD to change the wording from "prior year" and "current year" in table 1 to 2018 and 2019 to facilitate better tracking of the contribution years.*

Item 2: Concept Notes and budget allocation

5. WHO introduced the set of nine (9) Concept Notes and related documents that had been shared with the Steering Committee prior to the meeting. The Concept Notes covered 82% of the available funds and were jointly developed by the three agencies as well as with the countries and regions. They also incorporated earlier comments and inputs from NORAD and the MPTF Office. The criteria in terms of compliance and governance had been met accordingly. The steering committee were asked to review and take a decision on whether to approve, defer or reject each. Eight of the Concept Notes were batched into one overall project to meet the MPTF requirements for the transfer of funds for each implementing organization. The Secretariat concept note was submitted as a separate project proposal.
6. The Concept Notes were discussed in the following order: country level (4), regional level (2), global level (2) and Secretariat Concept Note (1).

Country level Concept Notes:

NORAD supported the country Concept Notes in principle, but raised a couple of general comments:

The balance between global, regional and country work was perceived as fairly good in the submitted Concept Notes, however, it was emphasized that the programme needed to ensure a stronger country focus over time.

Some countries that were included in the Concept Notes were not reflected in the 2018-2019 workplan. WHO clarified that the Concept Notes for Niger and Guinea were based on particular country requests that the programme received subsequent to the November 2018 Steering Committee meeting and therefore were not reflected in the workplan.

NORAD raised the question of strengthening the link between the results matrix and activities by introducing indicators that help to monitor how the overall goals in the results framework were achieved compared to a baseline status. WHO confirmed that this would be linked; it was planned to establish a baseline at the start of implementation in countries to facilitate measurement and reporting.

NORAD asked if it would be possible to include a small section on risks and risk management in each of the Concept Notes.

NORAD will submit any additional comments on the Concept Notes in writing.

The MPTF Office supported the aggregation of the Concept Notes as this facilitated the handling of transfers to the agencies and saved transaction costs. They requested that the concept notes be processed as two separate batches: Batch 1: for the combined eight country-specific, regional and global proposals; Batch 2: for the Technical Secretariat

They noted that the section “alignment with national/regional strategies” in each Concept Note should also demonstrate alignment with the UNDAF framework in the respective country. The MPTF ToR and Operations Manual included references on how to approach the country work based on the UNDAF framework. Thus, the Steering Committee could be assured that is applied. A line in the relevant section of each Concept Note will be added to reflect this.

Regional level Concept Notes:

There were no questions or comments on the regional level Concept Notes.

Global level Concept Notes:

WHO emphasized that the funds for the global projects would not be used to finance core work of the implementing organizations but rather funding interagency work that would not otherwise be done, such as co-create new data analysis. Regarding the Interagency data exchange (IADEX) concept note, OECD remarked that some additional work had been planned that was subject to the availability of funds. Further, some minor corrections would have to be made to the IADEX and International mobility platform Concept Notes.

NORAD suggested to add information on the expected impact of the global products and to consider this for all future concept notes.

Secretariat Concept Note:

WHO introduced the Secretariat Concept Note, emphasizing that the three agencies had spent considerable amounts of own resources and in-kind contributions to bring the programme this far. Now that the programme reached the implementation stages, it was

agreed that there is a need to reinforce the technical secretariat by strengthening the implementation management, therefore one full time staff member will be hired by WHO within the Secretariat budget.

Once the funding reached a higher level this would be revisited. ILO confirmed that there was one full time staff working on the programme as focal person.

The MPTF Office informed that the Secretariat Concept note had to be submitted apart from the other set of concept notes. They suggested to lump all travel budget under WHO to simplify the transfer of funds. It was agreed that all travel related to secretariat work be funded from this budget, including representatives of the other implementing organizations.

Decision points:

a. *The workplan to be updated regularly to reflect incoming requests to the programme.*

- *The Concept Notes to be updated based on the comments made during the Steering Committee meeting.*

Country level

- o *Include reference to the alignment with the UNDAF framework in all the country- level Concept Notes*

Global level

- o *The Inter-agency Data Exchange (IADEX) and International mobility platform concept notes to be corrected based on OECD comments.*
- o *A line on expected impact to be added to both concept notes.*

Secretariat

- o *All travel costs to be lumped together under WHO budget.*

b. *The technical secretariat to suggest how risks and risk management will be included in future Concept Notes. Further, a line on expected results should be added. The project proposal form will be adjusted to accommodate these suggestions.*

c. *As next steps the ILO will complete the administrative forms parts A, B and D (Operations Manual, Annex 3) and circulate them for signature taking into account the changes and amendments of the Steering Committee.*

d. *The Steering Committee approved the Concept Notes with the before-mentioned changes, including the related budget allocations and agreed to the next steps.*

Item 3: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Nov 2018)

7. The minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting (Nov 2018) were adopted without amendments.

Item 4: Any other business and conclusions

8. The next Steering Committee meeting will take place on 28th of May 2019 and will be hosted and chaired by WHO.

9. ILO informed the Steering Committee that Saudi Arabia, who would take over the G20 presidency in 2020, informally had inquired about the Working for Health programme, indicating interest to include Working for Health on their agenda. The Steering Committee concurred that this would be a good opportunity to enhance the Working for Health programme profile.
10. WHO informed the Steering Committee it had received a written pledge from the Silatech Foundation (Qatar) for an additional \$2 million for the MPTF for 2019. The Silatech Foundation was focusing on job creation for women and youth. The pledge was received in writing this same day and WHO would now follow it up.
11. NORAD mentioned that it would be helpful to establish a Review Committee while the programme was growing. They also informed the Steering Committee that they intended to contact the Director of the World Bank to explore how to benefit from the ongoing global work and to ensure a good linkage between programmes.
12. The Steering Committee agreed, based on comments from WHO and the MPTF Office, that it was important to get early narratives on results and impact ready to support the resource mobilization. The MPTF Office offered support from their experiences on how to use early success stories and narratives to mobilize more funds.
13. In addition to the revision of the Resource Mobilization Strategy, which would be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting, it was agreed that a calendar with upcoming high level events (e.g. UNGA) would be developed to track strategic funding opportunities. This would also help to align with complimentary initiatives, such as from the World Bank.

Decision points:

- a. *A calendar of potential opportunities and high-level events (e.g. UNGA) to be prepared by the technical secretariat*